



# Montgomery County Council

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**For Immediate Release**

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**March 30, 2004**

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## COUNCIL AMENDS "CARRY-IN, CARRY-OUT" POLICY, PUTS TRASH CANS BACK INTO SOME COUNTY PARKS

The Montgomery County Council today approved a resolution that would put trash cans back into some parks affected by last year's decision to institute a "carry-in, carry-out" policy for trash in most County parks.

The previous move by the County, approved last May and fully implemented in December, removed trash cans from all County parks, with the exception of regional and recreational parks. The policy was enacted to save money. A pilot program, initiated in December 2002, involved six parks, including Sligo Creek Park, where neighborhood groups have noted a marked increase in litter over the past 17 months.

"Any pilot program requires mid-course corrections," said Councilmember Perez, Lead Councilmember for the Environment, who authored the resolution with Councilmembers Howard Denis and George Leventhal. "In some parks, 'Carry-In, Carry-Out' has resulted in less litter and cost savings. However, in Sligo Creek Park, it has resulted in a dramatic increase in trash, more money spent keeping up with the litter, and, still, a continuing trash problem. It hasn't been cost-effective."

"Where the policy isn't working, changes are appropriate," said Council President Steve Silverman. "Stream valleys are part of the system that furnishes water to our homes. They've got to be protected."

The Council resolution directs the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to reintroduce trash cans in the Long Branch Stream Valley Park, Rock Creek Stream Valley Park (from Garrett Park Road to the District of Columbia line), Sligo Creek Park, and in any other park area, where, in the determination of the Parks Commission, restoration of trash cans is necessary to protect the public health.

The resolution was approved on a five-to-three vote, with Councilmember Michael Subin not present. Voting to restore the trash cans in selected parks were Councilmembers Perez, Silverman, Leventhal, Denis, and Phil Andrews. Opposing the change were Councilmembers Marilyn Praisner, Nancy Floreen, and Michael Knapp.

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